

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012658

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 496 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN
ACCRA ADDIS ABABA CAIRO CAPETOWN CONAKRY DAR ES SALAAM
KINSHASA LAGOS LIBREVILLE LISBON LONDON NAIROBI PARIS
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QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, ETRD, JA, XA

SUBJ: JAPAN AND AFRICA

REF: A. TOKYO 8095

B. TOKYO 14031

SUMMARY: SPARK OF GOJ INTEREST IN AFRICA FOLLOWING SHOCK
OF OIL CRISIS MAY BE FADING UNDER FONMIN MIYAZAWA. WORK-
ING LEVEL FONOFF OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT MIYAZAWA WILL
UNDERTAKE NO NEW INITIATIVES WITH BLACK AFRICA BECAUSE
HE IS PREOCCUPIED BY RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND CONVINCED
THAT MIKI'S CABINET IS SHORT-LIVED. SAME OFFICIALS CON-
CERNED THAT AFRICANS WILL CONCLUDE THAT WOONING BY JAPAN
UNDER KIMURA WAS TRANSITORY PHENOMENON, CYNICALLY DESIGN-
ED ONLY TO ENSURE ACCESS TO AFRICA'S RESOURCES. END SUM-
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MARY.

1. FONOFF WORKING LEVEL CONCERNED THAT JAPAN'S "OPENING" TO LDCS MADE BY FONMINS OHIRA AND KIMURA AFTER OIL CRISIS MAY BE ABORTED BY FONMIN MIYAZAWA'S PREOCCUPATION WITH JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH US AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. DIRECTOR AFRICAN DIVISION KUROKOCHI TOLD EMBOFF THAT MIYAZAWA'S "BLINDERS", WHICH ONLY VIEW JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH US, WERE INHERITED FROM HIS MENTORS, FORMER PMS IKEDA AND YOSHIDA, AND MIGHT JEOPARDIZE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY GOJ IN RECENT MONTHS TO AMELIORATE JAPAN'S IMAGE AND RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN NATIONS AND OTHER LDCS. KUROKOCHI NOTED WITH OBVIOUS DISMAY THAT MIYAZAWA HAS NOT YET ASKED FOR BRIEFING ON AFRICA EVEN THOUGH HE HAS BEEN IN OFFICE FOR NEARLY TWO MONTHS.

2. FORMER FONMIN KIMURA ACHIEVED SOME MOMENTUM IN JAPAN- AFRICAN RELATIONS AND BEGAN WHAT KUROKOCHI DESCRIBED AS SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD INITIATING UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH BLACK AFRICA. IN PARTICULAR, KIMURA'S TOUR LAST NOVEMBER OF TANZANIA, GHANA, NIGERIA, AND ZAIRE (NAD EGYPT) WAS SIGNIFICANT SYMBOL OF JAPAN'S INTEREST IN AREA. OTHER RECENT INDICATIONS CITED BY KUROKOCHI OF MORE FORHTCOMING POSTURE BY GOJ TOWARD AFRICA INCLUDE: A) EARLY RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU; B) CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO MOZAMBIQUE LEADERSHIP ON INSTALLATION OF TRANSITIONAL GOVT LAST SEPT; C) SUPPORT FOR ENDING SA'S CONTROL OF NAMIBIA; D) VOTING IN UN, INDICATING FIRM SWING TO BLACK AFRICAN POSITIONS; E) AID TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. (KUROKOCHI ADMITTED THAT AID WAS MOSTLY SPIRITUAL, ALTHOUGH JAPAN IS CONTRIBUTING \$150,000 TO UNESCO WHICH FUNDS ITS WAY AS EDUCATION FUNDS TO AFRICAN LIBERATION GROUPS); F) REITERATION OF PROHIBITION AGAINST JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN SA, (KUROKOCHI CONCEDED THAT TRADE WITH SA WOULD CONTINUE TO EXPAND BUT FONOFF HOPES TRADE WITH BLACK AFRICA WILL INCREASE AT MUCH MORE RAPID PACE. COMMERCE WITH BLACK AFRICA COULD SIMPLY NOT REPLACE JAPAN'S TRADE WITH SA.)

3. KUROKOCHI EXPECTS COMMITMENTS ALREADY MADE TO AFRICANS WILL BE FULFILLED BUT FURTHER INITIATIVES WILL NOT BE
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LAUNCHED UNDER MIYAZAWA, BOTH AS RESULT OF HIS LACK OF INTEREST IN AFRICA AND LDCS GENERALLY AND BECAUSE MIYAZAWA APPARENTLY BELIEVES MIKI'S CABINET IS SHORT-LIVED. KUROKOCHI SAID JOURNALISTS AND MANY FONOFF OFFICIALS SHARE VIEW THAT KIMURA LOST THE FOREIGN MINISTERSHIP BECAUSE HE STUCK HIS NECK OUT. MIYAZAWA DOES NOT WANT HIS JOB AS FOREIGN MINISTER WITH A TRANSITIONAL MIKI GOVT TO BE HIS LAST AS A CABINET MINISTER. PRACTICAL RESULT WILL

BE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITTED TECHNICAL AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO SELECTED RESOURCE-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, WITH THE 2 PERCENT OF JAPAN'S 75 AID BUDGET ALLOCATED TO AFRICA (SAME PERCENTAGE AS BUDGETTED IN 74), OTHER UNSPECIFIED, BUT MORE VENTURESOME PROJECTS, KIMURA AND KUROKOCHI ENVISIONED WILL BE SHELVED. KUROKOCHI CITED FATE OF PROPOSALS ON OPENING EMBASSIES IN AFRICA AS EXAMPLE. FONOFF REQUESTED FUNDS TO OPEN EMBASSIES IN GUINEA AND UGANDA; ONLY AN EMBASSY IN CONAKRY WAS INCLUDED IN '75 BUDGET.

4. COMMENT: KUROKOCHI'S REMARKS ARE INDICATIVE OF FACT THAT MANY YOUNGER FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS LIKED KIMURA'S ACTIVIST STYLE DESPITE (OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF) HIS UNPOPULARITY WITH SOME CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS. A GREAT DEAL OF HIS BEARISH ASSESSMENT, HOWEVER, HANGS ON THE QUESTION OF HOW LONG MIKI WILL LAST, A POINT ON WHICH NO ONE AGREES AT THIS EARLY STAGE.

5. SHOULD MIYAZAWA'S LEADERSHIP REMAIN CAUTIOUS, WE WOULD EXPECT JAPAN TO TREAT THE LDCS CORRECTLY, THOUGH PERHAPS WITHOUT SPECIAL ATTENTION. PAST COMMITMENTS AND PRAGMATISM IN FONOFF AND MITI, RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS, PLUS NEED TO MAINTAIN PM MIKI'S IMAGE AS A SUPPORTER OF THE THIRD WORLD, WILL DICTATE CONTINUED JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR MANY BLACK AFRICAN AND ARAB POSITIONS IN UNGA AND OTHER MULTI-LATERAL FORA.
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